

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-3 and 5-20 are pending in the present application, with claims 1 and 20 being independent. The subject matter of claim 4 has been incorporated into claim 1, and thus claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action that claim 20 is allowed and that claims 4-19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. For at least the reasons detailed below, all pending claims should be considered allowable.

***Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102***

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bauer et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims.

As stated above, the subject matter of allowable claim 4 has been incorporated into independent claim 1. Thus, claim 1 should now be considered allowed, and claims 2-3

should be considered allowable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner further the present application to issue.

**CONCLUSION**

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin R. Geissler (Reg. No. 51,011) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

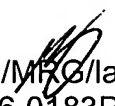
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

  
James T. Eller, Jr., #39,538

  
JTE/MRG/lab  
4086-0183P

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000